IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0013] as follows:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the printing portion of a thermal printer for which the present invention is applied. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a main frame, from which all members except for a drive unit have been removed. Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the drive unit. Fig. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the drive unit. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a conventional drive transmission mechanism. Fig. 6 is an exploded perspective view of the rotary motor and idler gears of the drive unit illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4.

Please amend paragraph [0023] as follows:

Specifically, the gear fitting member or support member 22 (referred to hereafter as gear fitting member) is made of a zinc alloy by die casting, and gear support shafts 22a, 22b, for supporting the idler gears 23, 24, are integrally formed. The idler gears 23, 24 are inserted and respectively fitted on the gear support shafts 22a, 22b of the gear fitting member 22. And in a state wherein the drive gear 21a is inserted into a storage portion 22c and engages the idler gear 24, the motor 21 is secured to the gear fitting member 22 by screws (not shown) at two locations. As illustrated in Figs. 3-4, the gear fitting member 22 has two sections that are offset from one another, the

motor 21 being mounted to one section and the gear support shafts 22a,22b extending from the other section. As a result, the drive unit 20 is provided. At this time, the distal end of the gear support shaft 22b is fitted into an opening in the form of an engagement groove 25a (shown in Fig. 6) that is formed in a motor flange (connecting flange) 25 and supports the idler gear 24 and also positions the motor 21. Further, since the motor is closely attached to the gear fitting member 22, heat generated by the motor 21 is released through the gear fitting member 22. Thus, it is preferable that the gear fitting member 22 be formed of a material having a superior heat release property.